

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04586 01 OF 02 180353Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12
NEA-10 SSM-05 /131 W
-----066092 180422Z /16

R 190339Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8165

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 04586

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS : MASS, SOPN, TW
SUBJECT : PRESS REPORT: SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO ROC

1. FYI: FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF
TEXT OF JUNE 17 ARTICLE IN CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO. ARTICLE
WAS WRITTEN BY CKSP U.S. CORRESPONDENT FU CHIEN-CHUNG
AND DATED WASHINGTON, JULY 16:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TODAY SAID
THAT THE ROC'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE 60 F-4S (PHANTOMS)
FROM THE U.S. IS PENDING A DECISION BY THE U.S. TOP
LEVEL.

MR. KENNETH BROWN, SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
SAID IN HIS REPLY TO THIS REPORTER'S QUESTION THAT THIS
REQUEST IS STILL UNDER STUDY BY THE TOP LEVEL AND THAT
ONCE A DECISION IS MADE, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL INFORM
THE CONGRESS AND PUBLISH THE DECISION LATER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT REGARDING THE ROC'S SUGGESTION
ON ADDITIONAL PURCHASE OF F-5E FIGHTERS, HE DID NOT
KNOW WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATED WITH THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 04586 01 OF 02 180353Z

ROC GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

SINCE 1973, THE ROC AIR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE U.S. NORTHROP CORPORATION
IN PRODUCING F-5 FIGHTERS JOINTLY. THE JOINT PRODUC-
TION HAS ENTERED THE FIFTH STAGE, THAT IS, THE FINAL
STAGE. THE AIR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND THE

NORTHROP CORPORATION WILL HAVE PRODUCED 208 F-5 FIGHTERS JOINTLY BY THE TIME THEIR CONTRACT EXPIRES IN 1980. IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THE ROC GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PROLONG THE CONTRACT OF THE JOINT MANUFACTURE OF F-5 FIGHTERS AFTER 1980 BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER IT WILL APPROVE THIS REQUEST. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT IF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT APPROVE THE SALE OF F-4 FIGHTERS TO THE ROC, THE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE U.S. IS TO AGREE TO THE ROC'S REQUEST OF PROLONGING THE PROJECT OF THE JOINT MANUFACTURE OF THE AIRCRAFT AFTER 1980. IF THIS PROJECT IS PROLONGED, THE ROC PROBABLY WILL BE PERMITTED TO MANUFACTURE F-5X, THE MOST ADVANCED AIRCRAFT OF THE SERIES OF F-5 AIRCRAFT DEVELOPED BY THE NORTHROP CORPORATION. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT UNDER THE PROLONGED PROJECT, THE ROC WILL MANUFACTURE RF-5E RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANES WHICH ARE DESIGNED BY THE NORTHROP CORPORATION. AT PRESENT, THE ROC IS MANUFACTURING F-5E JETS BUT IT WILL BEGIN TO MANUFACTURE A SMALL NUMBER OF F-5E TWO-SEAT TRAINER FIGHTERS AS A SUPPLEMENTAL TYPE OF AIRCRAFT TO THE F-5E SINGLE-SEAT FIGHTERS IN 1979. FROM THE SPRING OF 1980, THE ROC WILL PRODUCE F-5E FIGHTERS. HOWEVER, IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPROVE PROLONGING THE PROJECT, THE PROJECT OF THE JOINT MANUFACTURE OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL END IN 1980.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 04586 01 OF 02 180353Z

BECAUSE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO OPPOSE THE SALE OF F-4 JETS AND FAVORS THE SALE OF ISRAELI-MADE KFIR FIGHTERS TO THE ROC, IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE ROC MAY NOT GET F-4 FIGHTERS FROM THE U.S.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID THE CHANCE OF APPROVING IT IS 50-50. THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER. AS HE IS NOW ATTENDING THE SUMMIT MEETING IN WEST GERMANY, IT IS EXPECTED THAT WHEN CARTER RETURNS TO WASHINGTON, HE WILL DECIDE ON SELLING THE PLANES TO THE ROC. THE TIME FOR MAKING THE DECISION WILL BE THE END OF JULY.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING SECRETARY BROWN, INTEND TO AGREE TO THE SELLING OF F-4S TO THE ROC. SOME OFFICIALS ON THE WORKING LEVEL IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE OFFICIALS IN THE ROC DESK, ALSO AGREE THAT THE ROC NEEDS F-4S. IT IS LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES FOR MR. HARVEY FELDMAN'S (CHIEF OF THE ROC DESK) VISIT TO TAIWAN LAST OCTOBER WAS TO STUDY THE NEED OF NATIONAL

DEFENSE OF THE ROC. AFTER RETURNING TO THE U.S.,
FELDMAN WROTE A LONG MEMORANDUM LISTING HIS VIEWS ON
ROC NATIONAL DEFENSE NEEDS WHICH INCLUDED F-4S.
THIS MEMORANDUM BECAME THE MAIN POINT FOR THE OFFICIALS
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO STUDY. IN APRIL, A DECISION
WAS ALMOST MADE. BUT DUE TO BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT TO
PEKING IN MAY, THE DECISION WAS SHELVED.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID AS THE ROC HAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED
IT WON'T BUY KFIR FIGHTERS FROM ISRAEL, PRESIDENT
CARTER WILL LIKELY APPROVE THE SALE OF F-4S TO
THE ROC. BUT, ITS NUMBER WILL BE LESS THAN 60 AS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04586 02 OF 02 180353Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12
NEA-10 SSM-05 /131 W

-----066102 180421Z /16

R 180339Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8166

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TAIPEI 04586

THE ROC. BUT, ITS NUMBER WILL BE LESS THAN 60 AS
REQUESTED BY THE ROC. IF THE DEAL IS MADE, THE ROC
WILL HAVE BRAND NEW ALL-WEATHER F-4 FIGHTER-BOMBER-
INTERCEPTORS MADE BY MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS COMPANY. END
QUOTE. UNGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI04586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-0050
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780741/aaaabiii.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75763570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1950848
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT: SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO ROC
TAGS: MASS, SOPN, TW, US, (FU CHIEN-CHUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75763570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014